

Footlight Flashes. Personal Paragraphs.

SPOHR'S 'Last Judgment' is in rehearsal by the Nelson Harmonic Society. Mr Balling will conduct, and some first class singers are to be heard in the solo parts.

POPULAR concerts on Thursday evenings have been inaugurated in Christchurch. Mr Harry Roseiter is running the 'show,' and if the programmes submitted are kept up to the standard of those gone through at the two concerts that have already taken place, there is a pot of money for the promoter and plenty of popular amusement for Christchurch people.

FITZGERALD'S CIRCUS has done big business in Dunedin, whither it arrived about a week ago.

THE 'New Boy' will probably have left New Zealand by the time the present issue is in our reader's hands. He was certainly funny, and did well in Christchurch while he walked the boards, though he did follow the Opera Company.

THE Rose Dramatic Company, with Leith—excellent man—an 'star,' have been playing in Dunedin. It is rather comical to see in advertisement, 'Notwithstanding enormous expense,' etc. etc. This old 'gag' comes well enough from an opera company or Bland Holt, but when Manfred Rose trots it out—well, really! And how George Leith must smile, too.

NEW PLYMOUTH has some very successful popular concerts. Mr Garry conducts them. They come off fortnightly.

EFFORTS are again being made to revive the absurd *canard*, denied a week ago, that Melba would come to New Zealand. There is not, and never has been the remotest chance of such a thing. There is no theatre in New Zealand which would hold enough money to make it possible for an *impresario* to bring Melba here. The same holds good of Patti, Irving, and Tree. The Kendals might come when the Americans get tired of them, as they are beginning to do. Mrs Kendal's charms are now what may be termed mature—decidedly mature, but she is still one of the finest living actresses, and Kendal is, of course, superb.

DUNEDIN seems the only town in New Zealand that can support a stock company. The Dobson, Kennedy Company have been there many months—nearly a year unless I am mistaken—and at latest advices were still doing well.

THERE is a story told in theatrical circles—usually the lower circles which suffer from the correct appreciation the press shows of their badly-mounted, poorly-played dramatic efforts—which never fails to raise a grim sympathetic laugh from the despondent managerial bosom. It is of an Adelaide manager whose show was so sadly slated by the local press that he cherished a terrible revenge against the whole of the fourth estate. This is how he carried it out. He invited all the office boys, printers' devils, and other trimmings of the press of the city to his performance. Of course the youngsters were delighted and flocked to the theatre, where they found that not only were they admitted 'on the nod,' but that the front seat of the dress circle was reserved for them. Behind a big notice 'reserved for members of the press' sat the grinning rank of shining faced rogues while the manager skillfully moved among the audience, and with one eye on the 'press' appealed dolefully with the other to the public to say if it was not 'a shame of the newspapers to send such illiterate boobies to criticise our performance.'

MISS CICELY STAUNTON'S (Madame Goldenstedt) concerts in Auckland appear to have inherited all the popularity that was the portion of Mr John Foller's entertainments last year. She draws good houses, and assisted by favourite amateurs, gives the public a big serving of good music—vocal and instrumental—at the usual low rates.

BLAND HOLT, who always revives the drooping stage whenever he comes with his well mounted dramas, is expected in New Zealand towards the end of the year. He is now playing 'Span of Life' to the Sydney people at the Royal, and earning plenty of applause and pelf. Mrs Holt as Shrove is the delightful woman she always is—graceful and winning—and Miss Hilda Spong, who led captive many hearts from stalls and circle when she was here, gains in popularity.

THE Mostyn Dalziel Company has broken the long dramatic silence in Auckland. On Saturday they opened in the Opera House with 'Hansom,' an Australian drama of the strongly sensational class, which very often draws immensely.

MADAME BERNHARDT was the first actress to really study art of fainting. The realistic cleverness of her faint in 'Féloria' was the result of weeks of study. So realistic in the scene that when she gasps, falls half-way on the sofa, and then tumbles headlong to the floor, an inert mass, the audience invariably rises to a body and catches its breath, forgetting for the moment even to applaud.

THIS week we give photographs of the wedding party of Colonel and Mrs Fox (see Miss Cara Russell), whose marriage was lately described in these columns. Unfortunately the picture was too late to be reproduced with the account of the ceremony. The Colonel, who is the greatest authority on military matters in the



Mrs Cobb, photo. Napier.

COLONEL FOX'S MARRIAGE—THE WEDDING PARTY.

colony, is seemingly enjoying a peaceful honeymoon. He and his bride were last heard of as looking very bright and happy at Christchurch, their intentions being to proceed further South, their future movements not being divulged at present.

MR GEORGE JAMESON, who has left Christchurch for England to take charge of the interests of the Farmers' Co-operative Association in London, was entertained at a luncheon on Saturday, when about fifty gentlemen met in the rooms of the Agricultural and Pastoral Association to wish him *bon voyage* and every success in his new sphere. Mr Jameson has dwelt in Christchurch for the past thirty-two years, and has earned the good will and respect of all classes. Moreover, he is considered by those who ought to know, to be the right man in the right place in his present appointment.

It is with the deepest regret I have to record the death of Lady Wilson, of Cashmere, and her numerous friends received a great shock when the tidings became known. Though Lady Wilson has been somewhat of an invalid for some years, she had been rather better lately, and was always so interested in everything and fond of society when well enough that one forgot how narrow the path was that divided her from the dark valley. Her name will long be remembered in Christchurch where her many acts of kindness are known to not a few.

THE officers and members of the Christchurch Masonic Fraternity at their lodge meeting on Monday night presented Mr John Chynoweth, their late secretary, with a secretary's jewel prior to his departure for England, eulogising the work he had done and wishing him success on his return to the Old Country. Mrs Chynoweth has been the recipient of a neat little case containing silver pen, paper, knife and pencil from the Merivale Guild in remembrance of the many afternoons spent in a good cause, though often times perhaps at personal inconvenience.

MR SYDNEY HOBEN, of Napier, the talented young pianist, whose letters from Leipzig, published some years ago, showed that Mr Hoben had literary as well as musical talent, has accepted the conductorship of the ladies' Liedercranz recently formed in Napier.

AT the opening of the deer stalking season in Nelson, Mr T. Andersen of Whakapuka, Mr Cross, Dr. Gibbs, Mr Percy Adams, Mr George Sharland, and Messrs Thornton and Lann were among the successful shots.

THE death last week of Mr S. W. Goldsmith, of the firm of Manchester and Goldsmith, Waimate, is deeply regretted by all who knew the gentleman in business or as a friend.

MR SAMUEL ENTRICAN, son of Mr Robert Entrican, of P. neouby, Auckland, has gained further honours in his University studies in Ireland by carrying off a senior scholarship, and taking his B.A. degree with second-class honours.

DR. COLLINS, the honorary surgeon of the Wellington Hospital, who has resigned that position, expects to leave for England shortly on a visit.

THE Misses Ide, daughters of Chief Justice Ide, were passengers for Apia by the mail steamer Arawa, which left Auckland on Saturday.

THE resignation on account of ill-health of Mr F. Battley from the onerous position of general Manager of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Company was not altogether unexpected. Mr Battley has been in very poor health for some years, and must have found his well-filled duties extremely irksome at times. His loss to the Company is much regretted, as he has been in their service twenty eight years.

MR FAITHFULL BEGG, who was formerly a resident in Dunedin, intends to contest the St. Rollox division of Glasgow in the next general election. Mr Begg will stand in the Unionist interest. He is a son of the late Dr. Begg, of Edinburgh, and a brother of Mr Walter Bentley, the actor.

DR. GORE GILLON has returned to Wellington from England completely restored to health. During his absence he has taken the degree of M.D. at Glasgow University, and has won the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.

